



KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

NEWS RELEASE

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NOTE: Advanced Placement (AP), SAT and PSAT data for local schools are available from those schools.

AP PARTICIPATION, HIGH SCORES RISE

(FRANKFORT, Ky.) – The number of Kentucky public high school students taking [Advanced Placement](#) (AP) examinations and scoring at high levels continues to rise, data released today from the [College Board](#) indicate.

Since 2008, the number of Kentucky public high school students taking AP examinations has risen by nearly 12,000. The number of tests scored at 3, 4 or 5 has increased by about 10,000.

	Number of AP Test-Takers	Number of Tests	Number of Scores 3-5
2008	14,664	23,280	10,925
2009	16,958	27,129	13,178
2010	19,604	31,742	14,837
2011	23,547	37,977	17,404
2012	26,523	43,185	20,316

“These increases can be attributed to an enhanced focus on college and career readiness in Kentucky, exemplified by the efforts of AdvanceKentucky to expand the numbers of students who participate in AP courses and exams,” said Kentucky Education Commissioner Terry Holliday. “Schools in AdvanceKentucky’s cohorts contributed large percentages of qualifying scores, particularly among minority students.”

In 2008, the [National Math and Science Initiative](#) (NMSI) formed a partnership with the [Kentucky Science and Technology Corporation](#) (KSTC) to expand access to, preparation for and participation in academically rigorous coursework such as AP classes. The AdvanceKentucky initiative is the result of this partnership.

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Through the Advanced Placement Teacher Training and Incentive Program (APTIP), NMSI committed \$13.2 million in matching funds to AdvanceKentucky over a six-year period through monies from Exxon Mobil Corporation and the Dell and Gates Foundations. Federal funding also is provided by the Appalachian Regional Commission and by the Kentucky Department of Education through the U.S. Department of Education AP Incentive Program and the Race to the Top funding program.

Other Kentucky sponsors include Berea College, the Initiative for Military Families (supported by ExxonMobil and Lockheed Corporations) and Council on Postsecondary Education and Kentucky Science and Technology Corporation.

An additional 15 schools have joined AdvanceKentucky for the 2012-13 school year, for a total of 79 schools and an estimated 20,000 enrollments in AP math, science and English classes taught by more than 550 teachers. For more details on AdvanceKentucky, please visit <http://www.advancekentucky.com>.

The Advanced Placement performance of ethnic groups in Kentucky's public schools showed increases from 2008 to 2012. Since 2008, the number of non-white public school students taking one or more AP exams has more than doubled.

NUMBER OF PUBLIC SCHOOL STUDENTS TAKING ONE OR MORE AP EXAMS - BY ETHNICITY

	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
African American	686	814	1,011	1,295	1,412
American Indian	45	41	60	76	91
Asian	602	693	720	832	922
Hispanic	283	388	448	577	754
White	12,511	14,369	16,496	19,794	22,014
Other	303	409	442	538	582
No Response	234	244	427	435	748
TOTAL	14,664	16,958	19,604	23,547	26,523

Since 2008, the number of AP test scores of 3, 4 or 5 has risen for students in all ethnic groups.

NUMBER OF STUDENTSSCORING 3, 4 OR 5 ON AN AP EXAM - BY ETHNICITY

	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
African American	204	255	287	372	379
American Indian	19	21	25	24	44
Asian	406	471	477	561	624
Hispanic	150	190	223	301	364
White	6,088	7,298	8,247	9,633	10,979
Other	150	182	199	270	268
No Response	112	130	224	170	341
TOTAL	7,129	8,547	9,682	11,331	12,999

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The College Board's Advanced Placement Program enables students to pursue college-level studies while still in high school. Based on their performance on rigorous AP exams, students can earn credit for college.

Schools and districts determine prerequisite requirements for student eligibility. Common criteria include grades, teacher recommendations and PSAT and other test scores. The College Board encourages, but does not require, a non-exclusive admittance policy.

Senate Bill 74, passed by the Kentucky General Assembly in 2002, required the development of a core AP curriculum and the expansion of access to AP courses. In November 2005, the [National Governors Association](#) awarded grants of \$500,000 each to Kentucky and five other states to improve the access to and success in AP courses. Kentucky has used its award to increase student and teacher preparation for AP and to develop AP expansion. Students eligible for free and reduced-price school meals may qualify for waivers of the fees to take the AP exams, if funding continues.

The College Board also released data on [SAT](#) and [PSAT/NMSQT](#) scores. The scores of Kentucky public high school students who took the SAT I in 2012 rose slightly for all subjects, compared to 2011's results. At the same time, however, the number of students taking the test decreased by about 3.8 percent from 2011 to 2012. Therefore, these data are difficult to interpret.

	SAT I CRITICAL READING	SAT I MATH	SAT I WRITING
2008	566	573	550
2009	575	581	560
2010	578	585	563
2011	578	580	563
2012	580	582	565

A very small percentage of Kentucky public school students take the SAT I -- only 4 percent of graduating public school seniors participated in the test in 2011. Due to the varying degrees of participation among states, and changes in the number of students taking the test each year, the College Board cautions against making between- state or between-year comparisons based on mean scores.

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The mean scores of Kentucky public high school sophomores and juniors who took the Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT) showed slight increases in at the sophomore and junior levels. The PSAT/NMSQT is scored on a scale of 0 to 80.

YEAR	GRADE LEVEL	NUMBER OF PSAT/NMSQT TEST-TAKERS	MEAN CRITICAL READING	MEAN MATHEMATICS	MEAN WRITING
2008	Sophomore	4,071	47.4	48.0	46.6
2009	Sophomore	4,060	47.3	48.7	46.2
2010	Sophomore	4,509	46.6	47.3	45.7
2011	Sophomore	4,605	47.8	48.7	45.6
2012	Sophomore	3,953	49.1	48.8	46.2
2008	Junior	8,901	49.6	49.9	48.2
2009	Junior	8,354	49.7	50.8	48.1
2010	Junior	7,802	49.8	50.3	48.4
2011	Junior	7,939	50.9	51.2	48.7
2012	Junior	7,523	51.0	50.7	48.2

Some Kentucky public school districts offer the PSAT/NMSQT to students at the 9th-grade level, which may impact the number of students who participate as sophomores. Score information for 9th-grade students is not yet available from the College Board.

The SAT is a three-hour test that measures verbal and mathematical reasoning skills students have developed over time and skills they need to be successful academically. Many colleges and universities use the SAT as one indicator of a student's readiness to do college-level work. SAT scores are compared with the scores of other applicants and the accepted scores at an institution and can be used as a basis for awarding merit-based financial aid. Kentucky colleges and universities typically use the ACT as an admission requirement, which is reflected in the small percentage of students who take the SAT.

The SAT is scored on a scale of 200-800 (for math and verbal) and is typically taken by high school juniors and seniors. The test is administered several times a year.

The PSAT/NMSQT is co-sponsored by the College Board and the National Merit Scholarship Corporation. It's a standardized test that provides firsthand practice for the SAT Reasoning Test. The PSAT/NMSQT measures critical reading skills, mathematics problem-solving skills and writing skills.

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